

RICHARD SEARS

of

YARMOUTH

and his

DESCENDANTS.

With an

APPENDIX

Containing some Notices of

Other Families by the Name of Sears

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Revised and Corrected

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ENGLISH ANCESTRY

Some years since, at the earnest solicitation of members of the family, I undertook the task of revising "The Sears Genealogy," and bringing it down to date.

I did so in the belief, common to the family, and public generally, that the English Ancestry of Richard Sears of Yarmouth, as published, was entirely authentic, and that little more was to be learned on that head.

Soon after commencing my labors, my attention was drawn to discrepancies in the pedigree, seemingly irreconcilable, and an investigation was found necessary.

The result of my researches proves beyond question, that not one step in the pedigree can be substantiated by existing records, and on the contrary, some portions are impossible, and others in conflict with known authorities.

I have been requested to give the facts publicity, in order that the pedigree may no longer be cited as authority, as has been done in various local histories, and family genealogies, and in the hope that attention being drawn to the subject, renewed searches may discover the true origin of Richard Sears.

In the proper places I have alluded to many errors, and will here only refer to those most vital to the pedigree, as found in "Pictures of the Olden Time," etc., by Rev. Edmund H. Sears, published by Crosby, Nichols & Co., Boston, 1857.

Part II, p.10. "John Sayer of Colchester, Alderman, etc., d. 1509, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, three sons, viz: John, Robert & George.

The eldest of these, John, d. in 1533, leaving two sons, viz: Richard and George. The eldest of these, Richard, is the subject of the first of the sketches in 'Pictures of the Older Time.' He was born in Colchester in 1508, marriel Ann Bouchier, daughter of ~~Sir~~ Edmund Knyvet, ----, of Ashwellthorpe, co. Norfolk, second son of Sir Edward Knyvet, ----; Richard became a fugitive to Holland, in 1537, and died in Amsterdam, 1540, ----. His wife, the Lady Anne, clung faithfully to her husband in his adversity, and incurred the lasting displeasure of the Knyvets. It is inferred that her father became so bitterly estranged from her, as to erase her name from all the family records, that she might be forgotten forever, for he gave to a younger daughter the name of Anne, while she was yet living.---- George Sayer in consequence of Richard's flight, secured for himself possession of the paternal inheritance, This George died in 1577,---- his descendant, and eventual heiress, marriel Sir John Marsham."

There is some confusion in the various accounts of the Sayer family of Colchester. Morant in his Hist. of Colchester, Book II, p. 43, says, "John Sayer, Alderman of this town died Feb. 14, 1509. John Sayer, his son, died 1533. George Sayer, son of the last, was an Alderman of this Corporation, and one of the Bailiffs.---- Richard his eldest son, died Sept. 1610.---- George the second son, who departed this life the 31 July 1596, marriel Rose Cardinall."

Wright in his Hist. of Essex, Book II, p. 409, says, "John Sayer, Alderman, died 1509, and his son John in 1533. George his son was an Alderman, etc.

Whether he means that George was son of the first, or of the second John is not quite clear.

Morant errs in saying that the Richard Sayer who died in 1610, was the son of George. It is true that he (George) did have a son Richard, but as he is not mentioned in his father's will dated 1573, and proved in 1577, it is probable that he was then dead without issue. But George does give twenty pounds to his nephew Richard, "lately the son of his brother John, and the same Richard who died in 1610, "aged full fourscore," as inscribed on his mural brass in St. Peter's Church in Col-

chester. The arms on that brass quarter Sayer and Wesden.

George Sayer and his brother John, married sisters, co-heiresses of Wesden of Lincolnshire, and as George's son Richard was dead before 1573, it follows that the Richard quartering the arms of Wesden, must have been the son of John, and it is so stated in the Heralds Visitation of Essex for 1613, pub. Har. Soc., 1878, Part I, p. 386.

If, as Morant says, the Richard who died in 1610, was the eldest son of George, why did his younger brother, George Jr., who died in 1596, succeed to the paternal estates in 1577?

Here we have an apparent case of a Richard Sayer the eldest son, being supplanted by his younger brother George, and perhaps the person who constructed the pedigree of Richard Sears of Yarmouth, had in mind this erroneous statement of Morant. It is highly improbable that two elder brothers Richard were disinherited, and supplanted by two younger brothers George, in succeeding generations.

The Heralds Visitation of Essex for 1613, says that "George Sayer of Col. in Ess., gentle, sonne & heire," and "John Sayer of Col., Bl. sonne" were the sons of "----- Sayer of Col. in Ess., Gentleman," which leaves it an open question whether they were the sons of John Sayer, the Alderman, or as Morant says, his grand-sons.

That John, (brother of George), was a second son, is confirmed by his brass in St. Peter's Ch. Col., whereon his coat of arms is differenced by a crescent, the distinguishing heraldic mark of a second son.

The late John Sayer, Esq., Barrister, of Pett Hall, Charing, and Lord of the Manor of Snarden, Kent, who died in 1866, was the representative ^{of the} ~~heir~~ ^{descendant} from George Sayer of Colchester.

He was at great pains in compiling a pedigree of the family, entered in the "College of Arms," London, to eliminate the errors in the publish-

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el accounts of the family, and to supply the omissions. An abridged extract from this pedigree was printed in the "Memorials of Smarden," published in 1886, just before his death, and the proof was very carefully revised by him. In this pedigree he gives the children of John Sayer, the Alderman, as "1. George, d. 1577; 2. John, d. 1563; 3. Robert, living in 1573;" and I have no doubt correctly.

Admitting this, then Richard Sayer, "The exile," who is said to have died in Amsterdam in 1540, must have been the son of the Alderman, and not his grand-son. The brass to the latter in St. Peter's Ch. Col., represents him as kneeling with his wife, four sons and a daughter.

The question arises, what was the name of the fourth son, and what became of him? Most probably he died young, and the question may perhaps be answered by his father's will, or by the inq. p. p. taken in those days to show who were the heirs to an estate, and liable to pay ingress fine to the crown.

Up to the year 1570, the borough of Colchester enjoyed the privilege of probate, and the court-rolls are still preserved, and in the custody of the town-clerk, and the will of the Alderman may be among them.

The middle names of ~~Dauncier~~, given to Anne Knyvet, and later to ~~Dauncier~~ John Sayer, senior and junior, in the pedigree, are clearly anachronisms, as is also that of Jane Knyvet Sayer, born 1596, and tends to discredit it. Middle names did not come into vogue with the gentry till long after, according to various writers in "Notes and Queries,"

London.

Rev. Augustus Jessopp, D.D., of East Dereham, co. Norfolk, Eng., for years made the history of the Knyvet family an especial study, with a view to publication. Some time since he very kindly drew up for me a pedigree of Edmund Knyvet and his descendants, which he assured me

could be relied upon, as it was compiled from original documents.

He found that Elmann Knyvet had four married daughters, but none named Anne, much less two of the name; that he was insolvent, and in his will mentions none of his daughters by name;--- if therefore, he did have a daughter Anne, she does not appear to have been treated differently from her sisters, in respect to inheritance.

It appears however, that Elmann Knyvet's son William, did have two daughters named Anne, one baptized at Farningham, May 30, 1560, and the other, Mar. 2, 1566. I do not know if they were both living at the same time, but if they were, the circumstance would not be without precedent; instances of two children bearing the same name not being uncommon in those days, even three of a name being on record. But do we find in this coincidence the basis for the two daughters of Elmann Knyvet, said to have been named Anne?

It is a fact that Elmann Knyvet's daughter Alice, married Oliver Sheres of Wrenningham, a village some five miles from Ashwellthorpe, and the name may have become Sheres, Sares or Sears, at a later date.

Jane, "daughter and sole heiress of John Bourchier, Knight, late Lord Berners," made her will Apr. 8, 1560, and leaves to "Alice, my daughter, now wife to Oliver Sheres, 60 pounds" on condition that he shall settle lands in Wrenningham, Ashwellthorpe and other towns, on himself and Alice. May 1, 1565, Oliver Sheres of Wrenningham, and Alice his wife, demised to Anthony Groom of Shelton, gent., the manor-house of Wrenningham, "wherein said Oliver and Alice now dwelleth."

"I suspect that Alice died early, for I find in a will of Mrs. Downes who lived in the parish of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, (and whose husband was almost certainly of a good Norfolk family,) who made her will in 1601, that she left to a daughter, Elizabeth Hawlit, "the

100 pounds, which my son-in-law, Oliver Sheres owes me."

(Query, did Oliver Sheres remove to London, and did this marriage of Oliver Sheres and Alice Knyvet originate another step in the Sears pedigree).

The registers of St. Peter's Ch. Colchester, of which John Sayer the Alderman, and his sons were parishioners, commence about 1653, more than 100 years after the alleged flight of Richard Sayer to Holland, and from them therefore, we can learn nothing of the family previous to that date.

P. 12. "John Bourchier Sayer, was born, say the family papers, in 1538. I suspect however, that this is a mistake, and that the date is too early, for it would make his father but little more than 10 years of age at the time of his marriage. Another date has it in 1535. -----

He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Hawkins, ----- and died in Holland, leaving by Elizabeth, his wife, four sons, viz: John Bourchier, Henry, William and Richard. Of the last three we have no facts, except that they were born in Plymouth, and settled in Kent. Plymouth was probably the temporary residence of their mother, while their father was with Hawkins as a navigator. Of John Bourchier, I have given some account in the 'Pictures.' The date of his birth is given in the family papers as 1561. I have put it a little later for several reasons.

He married Marie L., daughter of Philip Lamoral van Egmont, and acquired with her a large fortune, principally in money."

The biographers of Sir John Hawkins, generally state that he was born in 1530, but they are wrong, and probably follow some one erroneous authority. He died Nov. 13, 1595, and his widow, (his second wife), erected a monument to his memory in St. Dunstan's in-the-West, London, (of which he had been a parishioner many years), with a Latin inscription setting forth his forty-three years of service by sea and land; and a wooden mural tablet with English verses, a copy of which may be found in "Stow's Survey of London, etc. Strype, 1730, Vol. I, Book II, pp. 44-45.

It ends thus:

" Enling his life with his experience,
By deep decree of God's high Provilence,
His years to six times ten, & three amounting,
The ninth, the seventh Climacterick by counting,
Dame Katharine, his first religious wife,
Saw years, thrice ten, & two of mortal strife."

etc.

We see therefore, that he was but 63 years of age in 1595, and so born about 1532, and this is confirmed by reckoning his 43 years of service back from 1595, which brings us to 1552, when he would have been about 21;----- also by the fact that he was admitted a freeman of Plymouth in 1555-6, a step altogether necessary at that period for a man in his position, and one that would not have been unnecessarily delayed after he had attained his majority.

He remov'd to London before 1573, and succeeded his father-in-law, Gunson, as Treasurer of the Navy. His first wife was then living, and as she die'd at the age of 30, she could not have been born earlier than 1541.

John Bourchier Sayer was born it is said in 1561, (although Rev. R. H. Sears thinks the date too early). At that time Sir John Hawkins was but 39, and his wife but 30 years of age. Neither could have had a daughter of marriageable age at that date, nor for many years after.

These dates and conclusions, are confirmed by T. W. Worth, Esq., F.G.S. author of a Hist. of Plymouth and Devonshire, and of an address on "Sir John Hawkins, Sailor, Statesman and Hero," reprinted from "Transactions of The Devon Association for the Advancement of Science, Lit. and Art," 1883, pp. 40.

The registers of St. Andrews' Ch. Plymouth, to which the Hawkins family belonged, only go back to 1573, at which date Sir John Hawkins was

a resident of London.

As to the alleged marriage with Marie L. van Egmond;--- the late Mr. S. Alossen, a well known and esteemed antiquarian, and an Hon. Vice Pres. of the N. E. Hist. Gen. Society, (who came to this country in connection with the Embassy from the Netherlands), wrote a letter inserted in the copy of "Pictures of the Ollen Time," in the Society's library, of which the following is a copy:

" Saml G. Drake, Esqr.,
" El. of New Eng. Hist. & Gen. Reg.,

Dear Sir:

In the July number of the Register you notice "Pictures of the Ollen Time" by Mr. Sears.

I have seen this work recommended and favorably spoken of, both by the secular and Religious press, and yet that part of the Hero's history which relates to Holland, is very far from reliable.

I hear that the family Sears, claimed to be descended from a daughter of Philip Van Egmont, son of Lamoral van Egmont who was beheaded under Alba.

The Genealogy of all the branches of the Egmont family, has been printed, and brought down to the latter part of the last century.

When a learned Historian exerted himself to obtain all the information he could collect on the subject, and History and Genealogy agree that this Philip van Egmont had no children. Among the Van Egmonts there was but one Philip. If therefore, the family Sears are descended from this Philip, it must be from an obscure bastard.

Mr. Sears locates his hero in 1538, in a part of Amsterdam which was not built until 70 years afterwards. He introduces the family Van Egmont, as inhabitants of Amsterdam, and makes his hero visit the mother of the children of Lamoral, in that city, after the death of the latter, while it is well known that they never lived there, that his mother died 11 years before him, and that his children remained with their mother in Brussels.

Mr. Sears commits other historical errors, and I am only astonished that a man of his talents, should have neglected to consult the Dutch Historian, before he issued his "Pictures."

My sole object in addressing you on the subject is that the Genealogical Register may give due notice, in publishing the Genealogy of the Sears family, that it does not agree with reliable History, and other proofs, in regard to their alleged descent from Van Egmonts.

Yours truly,

S. Alossen."

1565, and hal, Marie L., b. 1587; Richard, b. 1590; John, b. 1593; and Jane Knyvet, b. 1596. These dates are copied from the family papers of the Searses of Chatham, and are I think correct. Such a series depending upon each other would not be all wrong. John Bourchier Sayer purchased with his wife's fortune, property in England, adjoining the lands which he hoped soon to recover. Among the estates thus bought were Bourchier and Little Forham Manors, both of which hal in former times belonged to his ancestors."

There formerly hung in the parlor of Mrs. Richard Sears of Chatham, a chart pedigree of the family, given to her by Hon. David Sears, which is now in the possession of a descendant in Framingham.

According to this chart, Richard Sears was born in Amsterdam in 1613; 33 years later than the date given by Rev. G. H. Sears.

While I think 1613, nearer the correct date of his birth, there is no evidence that it is the true one.

Both Morant and Wright, in their Histories of Essex, state that

"Bourchier Hall, or Little Forham in Aldham, derives its name from its ancient owners, the Earls of Essex. Sir Richard Bourchier died possessed of Bourchier's Hall in 1338, and it remained in the family until confiscated. Queen Elizabeth granted it to William Marquis of Northampton, who sold it to George Sayer in 1574. It continued in his descendants, finally passing to the Marsham family by marriage, fell into decay, was divided and sold." A part is now used as a farm-house.

I find no mention that it ever belonged to the Sayers, previous to 1574.

Mr Somerby's "Notices of the Sears family," page 4, says,

"In 1577, George Sears of Colchester died in possession of 'The Abbots' in Stanway, under trust for Richard Sayers in Holland," and confuses it with Bourchier Hall, or Little Forham, an entirely different estate in Aldham, a neighboring parish.

George Sayer bought Bourchier Hall, paying Ingress fine in 1574, and died in 1577, yet he is said to have held the estate "under trust for Richard Sayer in Holland" who the "Pictures" say, had died 37 years previous, viz: in 1540.

The author of the "Notices," probably got his date from Morant's Hist. of Colchester, Book II, p. 111, which gives a list of George Sayer's estates as found by the Inq.p.m., but not a word is said therein of

Richard Sayer, and the words "under trust," etc., are undoubtedly an interpolation.

p. 14. Here Mr. Sears prints his only piece of documentary evidence, viz: a letter from J. Hawes, late Yarmouth, June 30, 1798, to Daniel Sears of Chatham, in which he signs himself, "Your affectionate relative and friend, J. Hawes." In it Mr. Hawes refers to sundry "curious and important documents,"

"I have heard from your brother Richard, that Knyvet Sears or Sears, before he went to London, and some years before his death, collected and arranged these valuable papers with the intention of using them.

They had long remained neglected and uncared for. Among them were a list of marriages, births and deaths, similar to that which I now send, and many original deeds and letters, with a long correspondence between the Sayers, the Knyvets and others in England. It seemed to be closed by a letter from John Bourchier Sears, late Leyton, 1814. Your brother always speaks highly of this letter.----- A highly interesting manuscript was compiled from these papers, and came into possession of Daniel Sears, your father. The original letters were taken to England by Knyvet, and are possibly still there in the hands of some one of the family. The manuscript was last seen and read so late as 1780, but neither the one nor the other, are now to be found. It may be the originals are not lost, but the copy, your brother thinks, was either burnt, or carried away when the family mansion was nearly destroyed in 1783.--- I send such facts as I have been able to collect, assisted by Richard and Mr. Colman.

I have been unable to identify the writer of this letter, or to ascertain his relationship to the family. The signature attracts attention by its variance from the common custom of the period, of writing the name in full.

The only male persons of the name of Hawes that I find residing in Yarmouth in 1798, and bearing the initial J., are John Hawes, Dea. Joseph Hawes, the school-master, and his son, Joseph Jr.

The only marriage recorded between the Sears and Hawes families, during the last century, is that of Jerathm'l Sears and Elizabeth Hawes, daughter of Dea. Joseph Hawes of Yarmouth in 1781.

I am aware that the Sears Genealogy says that Daniel Sears of Chatham married in 1708, Sarah Hawes, daughter of J. Hawes of Yarmouth, (another mysterious J.,) and this error, for such it is, has been perpetuated on the Sears monuments in Chatham, Yarmouth and Colchester.

On the Yarmouth town records, the name is clearly written Howes, and the will of Samuel Howes of Yarmouth, recorded in Barnstable Probate Records, IV, p. 90, mentions, "daughters, Sarah Sears, ^{and} Hope Sears," who married the brothers, Daniel and Richard Sears, and "Meray Sears," who married their cousin, Josiah Sears.

The only Sarah Hawes living in 1708, and on record in Yarmouth, was the daughter of Dea. Joseph Hawes, she born in 1696, married in 1719, Thomas Hallet.

There is no tradition, or record found in Chatham, of the family mansion having been "nearly destroyed in 1763."

Benjamin Bangs, a merchant of Yarmouth, who chronicled in his diary more trivial events happening in Chatham at that time, makes no mention of the occurrence, and when the old building was taken down in 1863, the original timbers were found in place, with the bark still on, and there were no signs of its ever having passed through the fiery ordeal.

Daniel Sears ~~although~~ born in Chatham, was in business in Boston, in 1798, having removed to that place with his mother, at her second marriage in 1763.

But why should he apply to J. Hawes for particulars of his family, instead as would have been natural, to his brothers, Richard and David?

His brother-in-law, Mr. Colman was his neighbor in Boston.

We may admire the vivid recollection attributed to Richard Sears, after the lapse of thirty-eight years, of the letters, etc., last read when he was a boy of eleven years.

p. 16. "John Bourchier Sayer, d. 1629. By Marie L. Egmont, his wife, he left two sons, and two daughters, viz: Richard, John, Marie and Jane. The three latter went to England, and settled in Kent.

Richard Sayer or Sears.---- His birth is variously given, but 1590, we think is the true date. He married Dorothy Thacher at Plymouth, in 1633. The likeness of him was taken from a painting in Holland, in possession of the Egmont family, and is supposed to be correct. ----

He died 1673, and his wife in 1680. By her he had the following children, viz: Knyvet, Paul, Silas and Deborah.---- Knyvet was born in 1635, married Elizabeth Dymoke, ---- went to England on a second voyage, and died 1686, at the residence of his relative, Catharine (subsequently Baroness Barners), daughter of Sir John Knyvet, and wife of John Harris, Esq. The evidences he carried with him were never recovered. He left two children, Daniel and Richard.

I have already alluded to the doubtful date assigned for the birth of Richard Sears. If born in 1590, he would have been 40 years old in 1633, an unusual age to remain single, in those days of early marriages, and the statement that he married Dorothy Thacher in Plymouth in 1633, has not been confirmed.

No record of his marriage has been found, and no Dorothy Thacher is known to the Thacher genealogists, except as found in the Sears Genealogy.

It is claimed that she was a sister of Anthony Thacher of Plymouth, as Richard Sares in his will calls him "brother Thacher," and Anthony's son John, in an affidavit append to thereto calls him "my uncle Sares."

There can be little doubt however, that Richard Sares wife was Dorothy Jones of Dilier, co. Somerset, Eng., whose sister Elizabeth Jones married in England, Anthony Thacher, as his second wife, and whose brother, Richard Jones came over in 1635, and settled in Dorchester, dying soon after.

My reasons for this belief are based upon the following records.

"List of passengers who took the oath of conformity, Plymouth, Mar. 30, 1635.

"Richard Jones of Dilier, co. Somerset." (Letter, N. H. Migrants.)

"Richard Jones of Dilier, co. Somt., and wife Alice, settled in

Charlestown, (should be Dorchester), came over in 1635," (Howell,
Hist. of Southampton, L.I., 21st edn.; and Johnes Memorial, by Edward R.
Johnes, 1886.)

"Aug. 12, 1635. Richard Jones bought house and land in Dorchester
of Thomas Holcomb." (Dorchester town records.)

"9(4)1643. Alice Jones, late wife of Richard Jones, deceased, (being
about to marry John Kingsley,) made a deed of trust for the benefit of
her children, viz: Timothy, Samuel, Elizabeth and Mary Jones, and ap-
pointed "Antony Thacher of Yarmouth" and others as Feoffees. (Folk
Deeds, I.)

7(9)1661. Will of Samuel Jones of Dorchester, gives "to my 6 cousins
in Yarmouth, 40 shillings each." (Folkills, "Miscellaneous Locket,"
Will, 288.)

When in 1643, widow Alice Jones of Dorchester appointed Antony Thacher
of Yarmouth, Feoffee under her auto-sceptical deed of trust, the settlement
of Yarmouth was only in the County of York, and communication with Dorches-
ter must have been difficult and infrequent. The question naturally
arises, why did she appoint Antony Thacher as Feoffee? and the answer
is not far to seek.

Dr. James Thacher, the historian of Plymouth, transcribed the family
tradition that Antony Thacher of Yarmouth, married as his second wife,
six weeks before sailing from England in 1635, Elizabeth Jones.

Assuming that she was the sister of Richard Jones of Duxbury and Dor-
chester, 1635, then widow Jones's reason for appointing Antony Thacher
is plain -- he was her late husband's brother-in-law.

This is apparently confirmed by the will of her son Samuel Jones of
Dorchester, made in 1661, to which reference has been made, in which
he gives "to my 6 cousins in Yarmouth, 40 shillings each."

At that time, Antony Thacher had by his second wife, Elizabeth Jones,
three children, viz: John, Judith and Sophia Thacher.

Assuming these to be three of the six cousins, who were the other

three?

Richard Sares of Yarmouth, in his will dated 10(3)1667, names "Bro. Thacher and his two sons as "friends in trust," and John Thacher, son of Antony Thacher, in an affidavit appended to the will dated Feb. 3, 1675-76, calls him "my uncle Sares."

From this it appears that Richard Sares and Antony Thacher were brothers-in-law, and there can be little doubt that the connection arose through their marrying sisters.

Richard Sares had, according to his will, three children living in 1667, viz: Paul, Silas and Deborah.

The conclusion is obvious:--- First, Richard Sares married Dorothy Jones, sister of Richard Jones of Duxbury and Dorchester, and also of Elizabeth Jones, the second wife of Antony Thacher of New Carum and Yarmouth; and Second, Paul, Silas and Deborah Sares, and John, Judith and Bethia Thacher, were the "6 cousins in Yarmouth" of Samuel Jones, son of Richard and Alice Jones of Dorchester.

In regard to Dorothy Thacher, supposed sister of Antony Thacher, and at one time claimed to have married Richard Sares;--- no evidence has been found after careful investigation that such a person ever existed, and the will of Rev. Peter Thacher of New Carum, co. Somerset, England, (brother of our Antony Thacher,) made in 1640, omits any mention of a sister of that name, while mentioning apparently all his living relations, even to his second wife's brother and her four sisters.

The birth-place and parentage of Richard Sares have not yet been discovered, but it is noteworthy that in Cresscombe, the parish adjoining Duxbury, a family by the name of Serris, Seris, Sery, Serry and Serrys, (as at different times written in the parish register,) were settled at the same period, and Richard Serris, son of Richard and Eve (Taylor) S.,

was baptized there, Mar. 30, 1605, and he may well have been our Richard Sares of Yarmouth.

The record of births, marriages and deaths of the Serris family are full and complete, except that there is no mention of Richard Serris the younger, or his brother William, after their baptism, from which I infer that they removed.

His father died when he was a child, and the family estate probably descended to his elder brother Roger, whose marriages indicate that he was a person of good family and standing.

It is probable that Richard Serris continued to live at home until the death of his mother Sept. 29, 1631, when perhaps he decided to seek his fortune elsewhere.

The name of Richard Sear first appears in the tax list of Plymouth Colony, Mar. 25, 1633, when he was assessed a poll tax only.

The register of the parish of Dinder has long been lost, (except a portion containing a record of burials only,) but there are transcripts for some years, not consecutive, in the Bishop's office in Wells.

As they are in rolls by years, not parishes, and are covered with the dust of ages, a search for Dinder items would be an extremely tedious and disagreeable task, and it is uncertain if the desired years are among them.

It has been thought that Richard Sares may have married Dorothy Batt, who came from New Sarum in 1658, with her brother Christopher Batt and his family. Her sister Alice was the second wife of Rev. Peter Thacher of New Sarum, and she was thus a connection of Ammon Thacher of Yarmouth, but the "Bro. Thacher, and "uncle Sares," quoted above, seem to me to indicate a nearer relationship.

If Richard Sares did marry Dorothy Batt, she must have been I think

his second wife, as she came over in the spring of 1638, and his son Paul was born in Marblehead, in 1637-38, if his grave-stone be correct, which says he died Feb. 20, 1707-8, in his 70th year.

In a note to the first edition of the " Pictures," the portrait of Richard " The Pilgrim," is said to be " from the Egmont gallery in Amsterdam," which more definitely locates it.

There once hung in the parlor of Valer Richard Sears of Chatham, a painting which Mrs. Sears was wont to call " Sir Richard," and which has been said by some persons to have been the original of the engraved portrait. This is an error. The portrait was given after the Squire's death to his widow, by Hon. David Sears, and was a copy from a portrait in his possession. It resembles some of the family, but when or where the original was painted, is a mystery.

There is no reason to suppose that Richard Sears was ever in Holland, but some of Colchester Sayers took service, and married in the Netherlands, and portraits of some of that family may have been preserved there; the picture bears also some likeness to Rev. Samuel Seyer, the historian of Bristol, Eng., an engraving of which I have.

It is evident that Rev. E. H. Sears did not have a copy of the will of Richard Sears, recorded in Plymouth, or he would not have written that he had an eldest son Knyvet, born in 1635, died 1686.

In his will dated 10(3)1667, Richard Sears names " my elder son Paule Sears," and in the codicil dated Feb. 3, 1676, he again mentions " my eldest son Paule Sears."

Paul made oath to the inventory Nov. 15, 1676, before John Freeman, Assistant, who calls him, " Paule Sears, eldest son of Richard Sears, deceased." John Freeman lived in a neighboring town, and no doubt knew personally the family.

There is no allusion to Knyvet in the will or codicil, although he is said to have been living twenty years after the former, and ten years after the latter was written, nor is there any reference to property in England.

Neither the name of Knyvet Sares, or Elizabeth Dyneke his alleged wife is to be found in colony, town, church or court records, nor any record of administration upon their estates, or appointment of a guardian for their children.

Mr. Amos Otis whose knowledge of Barnstable history and families was unrivaled, in his "Hist. of Barnstable Families," gives from church records the names of three children of Eller Thomas Birrcock, the first settler of the name, but neither name Elizabeth, adding, "he may have had other children before he came to Barnstable, but it is not probable."

The name of Knyvet Sares was unknown upon the Cape until about 1843, the period of Mr. Somerby's researches.

Although "the family papers taken to England by Knyvet were never recovered," and the copies in Chatham were "lost or destroyed," a tablet was erected in St. Peter's Ch. Colchester, under the supervision of Mr. Somerby in 1858, which states that it was "Inscribed by Catharine Harris in 1837." It did not, as may well be supposed, take the place of an older, and perhaps dilapidated one, nor has any original been found elsewhere to my knowledge.

An unfortunate fatality appears to have scattered all of the family papers. We are told in the J. Hawes letter, that the originals taken to London by Knyvet Sares, were never recovered, and that the copies remaining in Chatham were lost or destroyed in 1763.

I have been informed that after the death of Mrs. Richard Sears of Chatham in 1853, that the house was ransacked by persons having no

right there, valuing articles of value carried away, including family papers. This is partly accounted for by the fact that Mrs. Sears, like many other very old ladies, had a habit of promising articles to various persons, "when she had no further use for them," forgetting that she had already disposed of them, and there were thus several claimants for the same things. When she died, some of these people, knowing her feeble, and believing that "possession was nine points of the law", were unwilling to take their chances in the settlement of her estate, and so helped themselves. Why any papers should be taken, I cannot imagine.

None of Squire Richard Sears' descendants now living, ever heard of his having made any "genealogical collection", nor of his having a family Bible containing the record of the marriage of Richard Sears and Dorothy Thacher, and the birth of Knivet Sears.

The Bible containing the record of his own family, has been carefully preserved, but it contains no other records.

The "family papers," of Hon. David Sears of Boston, from which Rev. E. H. Sears derived the material for his account of the family, are believed to be no longer in existence. After his death in 1871, his house on Beacon street, with much of its contents, passed to his eldest son, the late David Sears, Jr., who is understood to have found in it an extraordinary accumulation of correspondence and memoranda preserved by his father in the course of his exceptionally long life.

David Sears, Jr., a popular and exemplary member of society, did not inherit his father's tastes, and was more devoted to field-sports and yachting than to family history. Not being himself in the habit of keeping letters, and having to sell the house, he is said to have caused masses of the above mentioned manuscript to be destroyed, after a very cursory examination. It is not unlikely that some genealogical material

was included in this holocaust, and if so, whatever value it may once have possessed as evidence, is now nil.

At the same time the library of Hon. David Sears was divided and scattered, and the old Bible containing the records of Richard Sares, which was once in Mr. Sears's possession, has not been seen since.

As he at one time expressed the intention of depositing it with some institution, it may yet be recovered, but so far, enquiries for it have been made in vain.

The genealogical papers of Rev. E. H. Sears are not now to be found, and are supposed to have been given or loaned by him to some member of the Sears family, but were perhaps destroyed after using.

p. 19. "Paul Sears, b. 1637. He inherited most of his father's property.---- He adopted the children of his brother Knyvet, after the death of their father in England, and they were brought up in his family. His will is on Old Colony records, in which his brother's children are named as his own sons. ---- The names of his sons were, Samuel, Paul and John."

Paul Sears died Feb. 20, 1707-8, in his 70th year, according to his grave-stone in the old cemetery in Yarmouth, and was therefore born in Marblehead, after Feb. 20, 1637-8. His will is recorded in Barnstable county, not in Old Colony, (i.e. Plymouth) records.

The names of his children on the Yarmouth town records have now become obliterated, but the births of seven remain. From copies made by the town clerk many years since, and other sources, I have been able to learn the names of his five sons, and five daughters.

His last two children were his sons, Richard born 1680, and Daniel born 1682. In the "Sears Genealogy," these names are given in the reverse order, Richard being called the youngest, and born 1684.

Their grave-stones in Chatham prove the contrary, and copies of the

inscriptions are given in the appropriate places.

In his will Paul Sears gives his real estate to his sons, Samuel, Paul and John, charged with payments to be made to "their brothers, Richard and Daniel, towards their purchase of land in Monamoy," now Chatham.

Until positive evidence to the contrary is produced, we hold the probate records to be the highest authority, and that Richard and Daniel were the true sons, and not the "adopted sons" of Paul Sears.

For the benefit of future investigators, I will note the genesis of the pedigree, etc., so far as can now be ascertained.

About the year 1845, the late Mr. H. G. Somerby was employed to collect data regarding the Sears family, and a pamphlet was issued, entitled "Notices of the Sears Family, from Sir Bernard Burke's works, and Somerby's Collections in England," etc. The manuscript of his collection is now in the library of the Mass. Hist. So., in Boston.

It consists of a mass of extracts from English local works, relative to the families of Sayer and Sears there, but showing not the slightest connection with the American family of Sears; and of "Extracts from parish registers, and family papers in possession of Hon. David Sears, of Boston."

I do not understand Mr. Somerby's reference to "Extracts from parish registers," for as I have already said, the register of St. Peter's Ch., Colchester, does not begin until 100 years after the alleged exile of Richard Sayer, and that of St. Andrew's Ch., Plymouth, until after the removal of Sir John Hawkins to London; it is evident therefore that nothing pertinent to the American Ancestry could have been found in them.

Certainly Mr. Somerby in his researches found nothing to connect the English and American families, or he would have given the data, with references to authorities.

Not long before his death, in conversation with gentlemen well known in genealogical circles, he gave them clearly to understand that he did not wish to be held accountable for many of the statements in the Sears pedigree.

But Somerby did in fact furnish Sir Bernard Burke with the material for his articles on the Sears family, and the "Notices of the Sears Family," was published with his approval, if not written by him, for my copy bears his autograph, "With compliments of H. G. Somerby," and he was the agent, and with Mr. Benham, one of the church wardens, superintended the putting in place of the objectionable tablets in St. Peter's Church, in Colchester. Mrs. Benham told me that her husband was so much interested in the story of the Sears family as related by Mr. Somerby, that he wrote out a copy, which he deposited in the muniment chest of St. Peter's for the benefit of future generations.

In 1853, Sir Bernard Burke published the first volume of "Visitations of Seats and Arms," which contains at page 53, of Part II, an account of the family, claiming that by right of primogeniture, the Chatham branch is "The Head of the American Sears Family," this was followed in 1863, in the third series of "Vicissitudes of Families," by a sketch entitled "A Pilgrim Father."

In reply to my request for his authorities for the article, he wrote me as follows:

" Dublin Castle,
22 March 1884.

" My dear Sir,

Better late than never. Your letter of the 31 January last got mislaid, & has just turned up. Kindly excuse my apparent

inattention. The History of the Sears family was supplied to me by the late Mr. Somerby on behalf of the Hon: David Sears of Boston; & from it I derived the particulars given in the Vicissitudes. In the later Editions of that work, the Article no longer appears. It was omitted in consequence of searches I instituted to test its truth.

Those searches convinced me that the details were not only "not proven," but also incapable of proof, if not altogether wrong, & opposed to fact.

Believe me,

My dear Sir,

Yours most truly,

J. Bernard Burke,
Ulster."

In 1857, Rev. E. H. Sears published " Pictures of the Olden Time," to which was added in a later edition for private distribution, a Genealogy of the Sears Family.

In his preface he states that he derived his facts mainly from Burke's " Visitations of Seats & Arms," and from "family papers," etc.

He doubtless simply acted as editor, and did not apparently deem it his duty to verify his authorities.

In the letter of J. Hawes, before quoted, he says he was "assisted in his collections by Mr. Colman and Richard."

This is confirmed by a manuscript in the hand-writing of Hon. David Sears of Boston, dated Feb. 10, 1845, in possession of Gen. C. W. Sears of the Univ. of Miss., entitled, " Memoranda of the Sears, from Minutes collected by J. Hawes and Wm. Colman to 1800, and continued by Richard Sears of Chatham to 1840;" ----- " Copied from the original in possession of Mrs. Richard Sears of Chatham."

The manuscript contains many important errors, and varies from the records, and from the published genealogy. It was evidently written from memory.

I cannot now determine the share of either of the trio in the production of these " Minutes," but one fact will show how little Richard Sears could have had to do with them.

In this document his mother, Fear Freeman, is said to have been the daughter of John Freeman of Sandwich, and the printed genealogy makes the same statement.

She was in fact, the daughter of Benjamin Freeman of Marwick, by his wife, Temperance Dimmick, as is shown by his will recorded in Barnstable.

Richard Sears was nine years old when his grand-father died, and twenty-four when his grand-mother died. They lived in adjoining towns, and it is absurd to suppose that he did not know his grand-parents names and residence, or that such a gross error could have escaped his notice and correction.

Mr. Colman was his bro-in-law, and resided in Boston; his part in the matter is not evident.

Of J. Hawes I have already written; if his letter be accepted as evidence, then the story is apparently traced back to Daniel Sears who died in Chatham in 1761, aged 49 years.

It appears by the records of the Probate Court in Barnstable, that on Feb. 10, 1758, "Upon inquisition of the Selectmen of Chatham, Daniel Sears was adjudged non compos, and his wife, Fear Sears was appointed his guardian."

Swift's Hist. of Old Yarmouth, published in 1885, states that "the marriage of Richard Sears and Dorothy Thacher, and the birth of Knyvet Sears, are recorded in a Bible left by Richard Sears of Chatham, kept in the family for several generations."

A Bible answering to this description was once in the possession of Hon. David Sears, but has long since disappeared, and may have been deposited with some institution for safe keeping. All that I have been able to learn about it is, "it measured perhaps six inches by four, and the entries in it were in a small, fine hand."

Enquiries have been made of the descendants of Richard Sears of Chat-ham now living, who say they have never seen, or before heard of such a Bible. They would be grateful for any information as to its present whereabouts.

In conclusion: --- It is now evident that Hon. David Sears was grievously deceived relative to the early history and genealogy of the family, and there is no evidence to show who Richard Sears parents were, or where he was born.

It is possible that there may have been ancient alliances of the Sayer, Knyvet and Hawkins families, and the family genealogist may have erred in placing "the flesh on the wrong bones."

About 1500, a family of Knyvets was settled in Stanway, a parish adjoining Colchester, and about that time one Edmund Knyvet died there, leaving his sister, Lady Thomasine Clopton, his heir; and a family of Hawkinses was at the same time settled in Braintree, only twelve miles distant, of which one John Hawkins, a wealthy clothier, purchased estates in Colchester, and settled at Alresford Hall, hard by, circa 1600.

I have already referred to the marriage of Oliver Sheres and Alice Knyvet, daughter of Edmund Knyvet, sergeant-porter to Henry VIII.

There was more than one family of Hawkins in Plymouth, and another John Hawkins was made a freeman there, the same year as the Admiral.

Marblehead where we find Richard Seer settled in 1638, was largely settled by people from the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, in the British Channel, and the names of Sarres and Serres are found in the records for several centuries, and are still represented in Guernsey.

To sum up briefly: --- There is no evidence that Richard Sears of Yarmouth was descended from the Colchester family of Sayer.

Sir John Hawkins, Admiral, could not have had a daughter of marriageable age in 1560, nor for many years after, and John Bourchier Sayer if born in 1561, or thereabouts, was not his grand-son.

The Egmont connection is alike mythical, and unsupported by proofs.

It is doubtful if Richard Sares was ever in Holland, or that he married a Thacher, and there is no evidence that he ever had a son Knyvet.

According to the Probate records, Richard and Daniel Sears of Chatham, were the sons of Paul Sears, and they must have been his youngest sons, so that the claim put forth by Sir Bernard Burke in his "Visitations of Seats and Arms," that "the Chatham branch is the Head of the American Family of Sears in America," has no foundation in fact, and is on the contrary, in direct conflict with the records.

To bolster up this claim, would seem to have been the motive for the fiction relative to Knyvet, the soi-disant son of Richard Sares, and for calling the two younger sons of Paul Sears, his adopted Sons, as also for altering the dates of their births, so as to make Daniel the elder.

The claim to Ancestral Estates in England, is apparently unfounded, and all documents upon which the English Ancestry was based, have been lost or destroyed.

Magna est veritas et prevalebit. .

--:0:--

GENEALOGY OF THE SEARS FAMILY

FIRST GENERATION

1. RICHARD¹ SEARS, parentage, place and date of birth unknown; died in Yarmouth, Plymouth Colony, New England, and was buried there, Aug. 26, 1676. He married Dorothy Jones of Dinder, co. Somerset, England, who died, and was buried in Yarmouth, Mar. 19, 1678-79. She was a sister of Richard Jones, who came over in 1635, and settled in Dorchester, Mass., dying soon after; and of Elizabeth Jones, the second wife of Anthony Thacher of Yarmouth.

Children:

*2. 1. PAUL, b. prob. in Marblehead, Mass., 1637-38.

*3. 2. SILAS, b. prob. in Marblehead, 1637-38; perh. a twin.

4. 3. Deborah, b. Yarmouth, Ply. Col., Sept. 1639; was adm. to 2d. Ch. from 1st. Ch., Yar., Aug. 6, 1727; and died Aug. 17, 1732, "within about one month of 93 years of age;" m. 1659, Zachary Paddock, son of Robert & Mary P., of Plymouth; he b. Ply., Mar. 20, 1636; (or as his obit. says, "beginning of 1640;") d. Yar., May 1, 1727, ae. 88 years.

"Yarmouth, co. Barnstable, May 1, 1727.
"This day died here Mr. Zachariah Paddock, in the 88th year of his age, was born in Plymouth, in the beginning of the year 1640. He retained his reason to an uncommon degree, until his last illness, which lasted but a few days. He was married in 1659, to Mrs. Deborah Sears, born in this town, and now survives him, having lived together about 68 years, and by her, God blest him with a numerous offspring, especially in the third and fourth generations, having left behind him of his own pos-

terity, 48 grand-children and 38 great-grand-children, and of this latter sort no less than 30 descendants from his second son. The old gentleman, his wife, one of his sons and his wife lived for a considerable time in a house by themselves, without any other person, when their ages computed together, amounted to over 300 years. Mr. Paddock had obtained the character of a righteous man, and his widow, now near four-score and eight years old, is well reputed for good works."

(N.E. Weekly News Letter.) This obit. was probably written by Mr. Dennis, Pastor of the 2d. Ch., Yarmouth.

Children, Paddock:

1. Ichabod, b. Yar., Feb. 2, 1661-62; "went to Nantucket to teach whaling." He was named in his grand-father's will in 1676. ? Did he m. Boston, Mass., Aug. 16, 1707, Elizabeth Brown, or was it his nephew of the same name.
2. Zachariah, b. Yar., Apr. 14, 1664; d. Apr. 8, 1717-18, ae. 54 yrs., gr-st.; m. Bethia ~~Hall~~, who d. Mar. 8, 1708, ae. 41 yrs., gr-st.; and 2d., July 29, 1708, Mary Thacher, widow of Dea, Josiah T., and dau. of (who d. May 1717) Elisha Hedge, she b. Mar. 1671.

Children, Paddock:
by Bethia,

1. Ichabod, b. June 1, 1687; d. Aug. 5, 1750, ae. 63 yrs.; m. (? Boston, Mass., Aug. 16, 1707, Elizabeth Brown,) (and 2d.,) Joanna Faunce, dau. of Thomas & Jean (Nelson) F., she b. 1689; d. May 1758, ae. 63 yrs.; lived in Middleboro, ?68 Mass.
2. Deborah, b. Apr. 2, 1689; d. 27(4)1750; m. Oct. 1709, Benjamin Bunker, and 2d., July 1728, Jonathan Folger.
3. Elizabeth, b. Feb. 11, 1690-91; d. Jan. 11, 1759, ae. 67 yrs.; m. Nov. 2, 1710, Joseph Howes, son of Samuel H., of Chatham, who d. Dec. 6, 1750, in his 61st. yr.
4. Zachariah, b. Nov. 10, 1692; m. June 15, 1718, Elizabeth Howes, dau. of Joseph & Mary (Vincent) H., she b. Feb. 28, 1694.
5. James, b. Dec. 24, 1694; d. South East, N.Y., Aug. 9, 1761, ae. 67 yrs.; m. Nov. 5, 1719, Rebecca Chapman, dau. of Isaac & Rebecca (Leonard) C., she b. June 10, 1697; d. in So. East; lived in Mansfield, Conn., and later in So. East, N.Y.
6. Peter, b. May 27, 1697; d. So. East, N.Y., Apr. 10, 1760, ae. 63 yrs.; m. Mar. 16, 1720-21, Sarah Howes, dau. of Jonathan & Sarah H., she b. June 30, 1695; d. So. East, N.Y., Oct. 22, 1776, in her 82d. yr.
7. Bethia, b. May 25, 1699; d. Oct. 16, 1728, ae. 30 yrs.; m. Oct. 1718, Lot Gray, son of John G. Jr.
8. Mary, b. July 10, 1701.
9. John, b. May 21, 1703; m. Feb. 13, 1728, Martha Hopkins, dau. of Judah H., of Harwich, she b. Mar. 25, 1705; and perch. 2d., Hannah.

10. David, b. Aug. 12, 1705; m. Oct. 12, 1727, Mary Foster, dau. of Chillingworth & Mercy (Foster) Freeman F., she b. Jan. 1, 1709-10; rem. to So. East, N.Y.
11. Priscilla, b. Feb. 29, 1707.
by Mary,
12. Hannah, b. mid. of Aug. 1709; m. Feb. 23, 1728-29, David Howes, son of Jonathan & Sarah H., he b. Apr. 30, 1698; d. Feb. 3, 1781.
13. Anthony, b. Feb. 5, 1710-11; was drowned in Nantucket Sound, Feb. 15, 1731, in his 22d. yr., gr-st., Yar. "on that very cold day."
3. Elizabeth, b. Aug. 1, 1666; m. Nov. 28, 1689, John Howes, son of John & Elizabeth (Mayo) H.; she d.s.p.; and he m. 2d., July 8, 1691, Mary Matthews, and d. Apr. 30, 1736.
4. John, Capt.; b. May 5, 1669; d. Feb. 18, 1717-18, in his 49th. yr., gr-st.; m. (int. 1694,) Priscilla Hall, dau. of John & Priscilla (Bearse) H., she b. Feb. 1671; d. Jan. 2, 1724-25, in her 57th. yr., gr-st.
Children: Paddock:
 1. John, b. June 4, 1695; d. Sept. 30, 1732, in his 38th. yr., gr-st.; m. 1716, Rebecca Thacher, dau. of Josiah & Mary (Hedge) T.; after his death she removed to Boston with her children, (one of whom was Adino Paddock, the coach-maker and Col.) she was a communicant in the Brattle Sq. Ch., Dec. 5, 1736.
 2. Son, b. Feb. 1, 1696-97; d. Feb. 3, 1696-97.
 3. Elizabeth, b. Apr. 14, 1698; d. June 1772; ae. 75 yrs.; m. Harwich, Apr. 17, 1718, Joseph Sears, ^{h.s.} and d.s.p.
 4. Joseph, b. Mar. 8, 1700; m. Mar. 17, 1725-26, Reliance Stone, dau. of Rev. Nathan & Reliance (Hinckley) S., she b. Apr. 26, 1703; d. Mar. 26, 1734, ae. 31 yrs.; and 2d., Nov. 1735, Margaret Crosby, who d. Nov. 27, 1738; and 3d., Nov. 1739, Elizabeth Mayo of Eastham.
 5. Priscilla, b. Jan. 30, 1701-2; m. Feb. 22, 1721-22, Thomas Clark, Jr.
 6. Ebenezer, b. Mar. 18, 1703-4; d. Oct. 18, 1767, in his 64th. yr., gr-st.; m. Oct. 21, 1725, Mary Sears. ^{h.s.}
 7. Child, b. Feb. 25, 1705-6; d. Mar. 6, 1705-6.
 8. Thankful, b. June 26, 1710; d. Nov. 26, 1730, in her 21st. yr., gr-st.
 9. Josiah, b. Apr. 9, 1712; Dr.; m. Feb. 17, 1736-37, ^{h.s.} Mercy Sears. ^{h.s. q.}
 5. Robert, b. Jan. 17, 1670-71; m. Mar. 6, 1701-2, Martha Hall, dau. of John & Priscilla (Bearse) H., she b. May 24, 1676; removed to Mansfield, Conn.
Children: Paddock:
 1. Son, b. Feb. 2, 1702-3; d. ae 7 weeks.
 2. Seth, b. Mar. 13, 1704-5; m. Apr. 13, 1727, Mercy Nickerson; and 2d., Mansfield, Conn., Oct. 10, 1735, Zorviah Storrs; and 3d., Feb. 17, 1744-45,

Ruth Arnold.

6. Joseph, b. Sept. 12, 1674; m. Nantucket, Mar. 5, 1696, Sarah Gardner.

Child: Paddock:

1. Seth, b. July 9, 1699; m. Nov. 22, 1727, Leah Gardner.

7. Nathaniel, b. Sept. 22, 1677; m. Nantucket, Dec. 15, 1706, Ann Bunker.

8. Judah, Capt.; b. Sept. 1681; d. Mar. 31, 1770, in his 89th yr., gr-st.; m. Dec. 5, 1706, Alice Alden, dau. of David & Mary (Southworth) A., who d. July 12, 1774, in her 89th. yr., gr-st.;

Children: Paddock:

1. Reuben, b. Dec. 27, 1707.

2. Judah, b. Mar. 27, 1709-10; d. May 29, 1748, in his 39th yr., gr-st., Acushnet.

3. Samuel, b. Oct. 12, 1711; d. July 27, 1757, in his 46th yr., gr-st.; m. Dec. 2, 1744, Thankful Howes, dau. of Eben. & Lydia (Joyce) H., she b. Aug. 22, 1711; d. June 27, 1789, in her 78th yr., gr-st.

4. Mary, b. Mar. 5, 1713-14; m. Nov. 1731, Judah Sears, No. 3, removed to Rochester, Mass.

5. Grace, b. Jan. 27, 1715-16; d. Sept. 17, 1780, ae. 65 yrs.; m. Nov. 1731, John Sears, No. 3.

6. Rebecca, b. May 12, 1718; d. Hardwick, Mass., Jan. 1812; m. Thomas Spooner.

7. Nathaniel, b. Feb. 27, 1723-24.

"Just beyond the limits of Nobscusset, under the shadow of Scargo Hill, the loftiest elevation on the Cape, may yet be seen a venerable mansion, the home of several generations of the Paddock family. Near by is the family burying-ground.

Mr. James Otis used to say 'the old Paddock house was the oldest house in Dennis.' It may have been the residence of Zachariah and Deborah (Sears) Paddock." (Capt. Thomas P. Howes.)

The parentage, place and date of birth of Richard Sears are alike unknown.

The name of Richard Seer is first found upon the records of Plymouth Colony, in the tax list of Mar. 25, 1633, when he was one of forty-four in a list of eighty-six persons who were assessed nine shillings, in corn at six shillings a bushel, upon one poll.

He soon crossed over to Marblehead, in Massachusetts Colony, where Richard Seers was taxed as a resident in the Salem rate list for Jan. 1, 1637-38, and on Oct. 14, 1638, was "granted four acres of land, where he

had formerly planted."

What his reasons were for removing from Plymouth, can now only be conjectured, but the fact that his bro-in-law, Anthony Thacher and wife were settled there at that time, offers a probable ~~own~~ ^{own} reason.

Early in the spring of 1639, a party under the leadership of Anthony Thacher, crossed the Bay to Cape Cod, and settled upon a tract of land called by the Indians, "Mattakeese," to which they gave the name of Yarmouth.

With them went Richard Sears, accompanied by his wife, and infant sons, Paul and Silas.

He took up a residence on Quivet Neck, between Quivet and Sesuit Creeks, where in the following September his daughter Deborah was born, being one of the first white children to be born in the settlement.

In 1643, the name of Richard Seeres is in the list of those between the age of 16 and 60 able to bear arms.

Oct. 26, 1647, the commissioners on Indian affairs were appointed to meet at the house of Richard Sares at Yarmouth, when he entered a complaint against Nepoytam Sachumus, and Felix, Indians.

Oct. 2, 1650, he with sixteen others, complained of William Nickarson for Slander, damage 100 pounds; and at the same term of court, we find his name with seventeen others, against Mr. John Crow, William Nickarson and Lt. William Palmer for trespass, damage 60 pounds.

June 3, 1652, Richard Seeres was propounded to take up Freedom.

June 7, 1652, Richard Sares was chosen to serve on the Grand Inquest.

June 7, 1653, Richard Sares took the Oath of Fidellyte at Plimouth, and was admitted a Freeman.

Mar. 1, 1658, Richard Seares was chose on the committee to levy the church tax.

June 6, 1660, Richard Sares was chosen Constable.

June 3, 1662, Richard Saeres was chosen Deputy to the General Court at Plymouth.

Nov. 23, 1664, Richard Sares, husbandman, purchased of Allis Bradford widow of Gov. William Bradford, (who signed the deed with her mark,) a tract of land at Sesuit, for 20 pounds.

10(3)1667, Richard Sares made his Will, to which Feb. 3, 1676, he added a codicil. Both documents are signed with his mark, (RS) and in witnessing various deeds at previous dates, he always made his mark, a by no means unusual thing to do in those days.

Mr. H. G. Somerby in his manuscript collection in the library of the Mass. Hist. So., Boston, mentions a tradition that he held a commission in the militia, and lost his right arm by a gun-shot wound in a fight with Indians in 1650, but neither fact is recorded, nor is any such tradition known to the Cape antiquarians.

June 30, 1667, the name of Richard Sares is signed with fourteen others to a complaint against Nicholas Nickerson for slander of Rev. Thomas Thornton. His signature is well and plainly written, on the original document in the possession of Hon. H. C. Thacher of Boston, (of which a copy much reduced may be seen in Swift's "Hist. of Old Yarmouth," 1884,) but it is not certain that it is his autograph, (and no other is known,) as it and several others may have been written by the same person, and probably the one who procured the signatures to it.

I have followed the spelling of Richard Sears name as found on the records, which is probably the clerk's phonetic rendering; I have been told by aged members of the family, that when they were children, early in the 19th century, the name was written Sears, but pronounced by old people, Sares.

His first house was built upon the southerly side of the bluff near the sea-shore, where the cellar, a mere hole for vegetables some ten feet square, was pointed out to my informant early in the 19th century.

At a later date he built again a short distance north-west from the ancient house built by Capt. John Sears, circa 1704, and the site of this later residence is still recognizable.

His first house was perhaps what Mr. Amos Otis calls "a palisade house; such houses were built by placing sills directly upon the ground, in these two parallel rows of holes were bored, some six inches apart, for the insertion of poles, the space between being filled in with stones and clay, openings being left for a door and windows."

"The roof was thatched with the long sedge-grass found in the meadows, and as a substitute for glass in the windows, oiled paper was used.

"The chimney was built of sticks, laid up cob-house fashion, and well daubed with clay, or mortar made from shells. A southerly slope was preferred for the house, and the back of the chimney was hollowed out of the hill-side, thus saving some labor in building. The fire-place was of stone, some eight feet wide and four feet in depth, and the mantel laid so high that a tall person could walk under it by stooping a little.

"The oven was built upon the outside of the house with the mouth opening in one corner, on the backside of the fire-place. The fire was built in the centre, and on a cold winter evening a seat in the chimney corner was a luxury unknown in modern times. Straw or sedge-grass served for a floor and carpet. Some of the palisade houses built by the early settlers were the most comfortable and durable houses built.

"That of Mr. John Crow stood for nearly two centuries, seldom needing repairs, and in fact the last owners did not know the peculiarities of its construction until it was taken down. The walls of the house were

plastered inside and outside with shell-mortar, and at some later period it had been clap-boarded, thus concealing the original construction."

" Tea was unknown, and china and porcelain are not found in inventories before 1660."

An idea of the household furniture may be obtained from the inventories given further on.

" The early settlers were principally engaged in agricultural pursuits, stock-raising and fishing. Many whales were cast upon the coast, and the shore was divided in sections, under the charge of whaling squads chosen by the town people. Capt. Paul Sears and Lt. Silas Sears belonged to one of these squads, and Capt. John Sears was also engaged in whaling.

" Oil, fish and tar were exchanged with the traders visiting the coast for goods which were needed, and which they did not themselves produce.

" They traded in their own vessels with the West Indies, bringing home molasses and spirits, and built vessels which they themselves manned.

" The Cape seamen have always been famed for their skill and daring.

" At a later date John Sears invented the method of making salt from sea-water by solar evaporation, and was the pioneer in an industry that added much to the wealth of the Cape, until superseded by the salt-springs of Syracuse, etc.; and Elkanah Sears of Dennis was the first to set out and cultivate cranberries at Flax Pond in 1819.

" The Cape farms produced good crops of Indian corn, rye, barley and some wheat, and all sorts of vegetables; berries were plenty, and cranberries were indigenous. Game was plenty, and with fish abundantly supplied the table; cows and goats were kept for milk, and bees for honey.

" Beer was considered a necessity, and each family brewed at regular intervals. Spirits were consumed in considerable quantities, and the names of many of the best citizens are upon record as "licensed to draw

wine.* The mothers of the town were expert in the use of the loom, and made most of the cloth used in their families. In the summer they wore home-spun linen, and in winter flannel. The sails of a vessel built at Hockanum at the close of the Revolutionary war were made of cloth woven by them. Clocks were at first unknown, a sun-dial cut upon the sill of a southern window gave them the time of day, and it was long customary to face the house due south. In 1745, but one clock and one watch were taxed in the town of Harwich.

" The observance of the Lord's day was rigidly enforced, and no one was allowed to labor, engage in any game or recreation, or travel upon that day, under penalties proportioned to the offence. The tithing-men appointed by the town had with other duties, that of keeping order among the boys in church, and were armed with long rods, tipped at one end with a squirrel's tail or rabbit's foot, for the purpose of awaking sleeping women, and at the other with brass or a deer's hoof, which they brought down with emphasis on the heads of male offenders.

" The journey to and from meeting was, to many, long and tedious.

" Those who had horses were wont to "ride and tie," i.e. one would ride a specified distance, and then alight and fasten the animal, and proceed on foot, leaving the coming pedestrian to mount and ride for the next stage. The women and small children rode on pillion behind their lords and masters, but the young people of either sex were expected to make the journey on foot, and no doubt with congenial company they found the miles short enough. In winter the only mode of keeping themselves warm in meeting was by the use of foot-stoves, or a hot brick or stone.

* In the intervals between morning and afternoon services, the men and boys assembled outside to discuss town affairs, the prospects of crops, or fishing; while the women over their luncheon in the meeting-house, or

at some convenient neighbors, had their gossip. In early colonial times a large family was considered a great blessing in a pecuniary point of view. The boys assisted the father on the farm, and at seventeen were able to do the work of a man. The girls were also brought up to more than earn their own living. They assisted their mother, spun and wove the flax and the wool, and made their own and their brothers garments and in hay-time and harvest assisted with their brothers in the fields.

"A man with a large and healthy family of children was then the most independent of men. From his farm and his household he obtained an abundance of the prime necessities of life. The surplus which he sold was more than sufficient to pay the bills of the mechanic, and to buy the few articles of foreign merchandise then required. Taxes were paid in agricultural products, at a rate fixed by law, and if land or other property was sold, unless it was expressly stipulated in the contract that payment should be made in silver money, it was a barter trade, payable in produce at "the prices current with the merchants."

"Aged people were wont to remark that their ancestors estimated that every son born to them added 100 pounds to their wealth, and every daughter 50 pounds. However heterodox this theory may now appear to parents or to political economists, it was undoubtedly true in early days."

The Searses married in early life with but few exceptions, had large families. Lived comfortably, and were respected and honored members of society.

10(3)1667, Richard Sares made his will, to which he added Feb. 3, 1676-67, a codicil, which with the inventory are recorded in Plymouth Rec. Book 3, Part 2, pp. 53-55. Therin he names "wife Dorothy, elder" and "eldest son Paule Sares, youngest son Sylas Sares," and "Daughter Deborah, son-in-law Zachery Paddock," and "Ichabod Paddock," and requests

"brother Thacher with his sons as friends in trust," etc.

His inventory in the original record foots up [£]169 06 06, a manifest error, the real estate alone being valued at 220 pounds, and the last item is not carried out. Nor would the corrected sum represent his worldly condition fairly, as he had no doubt previously given to his children such portions of his property as he could well spare.

In the proper places I give copies of the wills and inventories of Richard Sears and his sons, by a careful examination of which, the location of the original estates may be traced in part, and some idea be formed of the relative wealth and personal belongings of each.

It is to be regretted that no plan is now known to be in existence showing the bounds of the original estates in Yarmouth and Harwich, and recent attempts to construct such have not met with much success.

No grave-stones remain to mark the burial places of Richard Sears and his wife, and they probably never had any inscribed stones;—upright grave-stones did not come in use in England until the time of Queen Elizabeth, and the early graves in Plymouth Colony were generally marked with a boulder. Some years since a granite monument was erected in the old cemetery in Yarmouth, by the late Hon. David Sears of Boston, which is popularly supposed to mark the spot of their burial, but I was told by aged members of the family that it was really placed over the grave of Paul Sears, his grave-stone being removed for that purpose, although it is possible that Paul may have been buried by the side of his parents.

There is no stone to the memory of Deborah Sears, wife of Paul, nor to his brother Silas, whose burial place is unknown.

The stone to Paul Sears, records his death in 1707-8, and it is the oldest inscribed memorial in the cemetery, although Swift in his "Hist. of Old Yarmouth" accords that credit to the grave-stone of Col. John Thacher,

who died in 1713.

There are no reliable traditions extant of Richard Sares and his family, and our only sources of information relative to them are the public records from which I have quoted on a previous page.

In Plymouth Colony, the governor, deputy governor, magistrates and assistants, the ministers of the gospel, and elders of the church, school masters, commissioned officers of the militia, men of wealth, or connected with families of the nobility or gentry, were alone entitled to the prefix, Mr. pronounced Master, and their wives, Mrs. or Mistress.

This rule was rigidly enforced in early Colonial times, and in lists of names it was almost the invariable custom to commence with those highest in rank, and follow that order to the end. Our forefathers claimed, and were cheerfully accorded the title due to their birth and position, and it is unwise to claim for them any title which they did not themselves assume. I do not find that Richard Sares was ever given the prefix of Mr., and in the town records it was recorded that his wife "Goody Sares
22 July 1679. In memory of John Sares, her husband,
was buried Mar. 19, 1678-79." <sup>in debt to "goodman Sares, £6. for 1/2 acre of
meadow land, bought by him."</sup>

He was a farmer, hard working and industrious, an affectionate husband and kind parent, a God fearing man, and respected by his neighbors.

His descendants showed good breeding, and many of them were prominent in town and church affairs, and in the militia.

Their names may be found in the records of the Indian and French wars, the Revolutionary war, and that of 1812. Many served during the war of Rebellion, and shed their blood freely for their country.

The family has always been very religious in its tendency, some of its members have been foremost in the temperance and anti-slavery movements, but it has never given rise to any prominent politicians, and while holding many local offices, not aspiring above the State Legislature.

" WORTH IS BETTER THAN WEALTH
GOODNESS GREATER THAN NOBILITY
EXCELLENCE BRIGHTER THAN DISTINCTION".

(Sears Monument).

*1664. Prenc, Gov.:

A deed appointed to be recorded.

Witnesseth these presents, that I, Allis Bradford the widow of William Bradford, late of Plymouth in America, Esqre, deceased, have the day and year aforesaid, for and in consideration of the sum of twenty pounds to me the said Allis Bradford in hand payed before the ensealing and delivery of these presents, by Richard Sares of the town of Yarmouth, in the colony of New Plymouth, aforesaid, husbandman, wherof and of every p'te and p'cell thereof, I the said Allis Bradford do fully acquit and discharge him the said Richard Sares, his heirs and assigns forever, bargained and sold, enfeoffed, assigned and confirmed, and do by these presents do bargain, sell, enfeoffe, assign and confirm unto the said Richard Sares, his heirs and assigns, two allotments of land containing forty acres, be they more, or be they less, lying and being at a place commonly called and known by the name of Sasuett, between a brook commonly called and known by the name of bound brook, and a brook called Saquahuckett brook,-- twenty acres whereof was the first lot, (so called) of upland with a small neck of land next the said brook, on the Easter side the said brook, and was the lot of the aforesaid William Bradford, deceased; the other twenty acres of land lying and being the next adjoining hereunto on the Easter side called the 2cond lott, and was late an allotment of land of Experience Michels; both which allotments of land are bounded on the Wester side with bound brook aforesaid, and on the Easter side with an allotment of land late Nicholas Snowes, now in the tenurs and possession of Peter Worden, as also a certain tract of meadow to the aforesaid lots appertaining, of seven acres and one half be it more or less, lying, being and abutting, between the norther side of the said nook of upland bound brook and small creeke, as from the Easter corner of the said nook, from a spring which runs through the meadows into the said bound brook; together with all the perquisites, profits, ways, easements, emoluments and appurtenances thereunto belonging; with all my right, title, claim and interest unto the said lots of upland and meadow or any part or parcell thereof. To have and to hold the said two lots of upland, nook and meadow with every p'te and p'cell thereof, together with all the perquisites, profits, emoluments, ways, easements and appurtenances thereunto or to any part or parcell thereof any ways belonging.

To him the said Richard Sares, his heirs and assigns forever, I say to the only use and behoof of him the said Richard Sares, his heirs and assigns forever.

In witness whereof the said Allis Bradford have heerto these presents set my hand and seal even the twenty third day of November, Anno dom. 1664.

Allis Bradford
her A mark
and a seale. ()

Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of
Thomas Southworth
Mary Carpenter her B mark.

Plymouth, ss. June 2, 1885. The foregoing is a true copy from Plymouth Colony Record of Deeds, Vol. 3, Part 1, Page 18. Attest, Wm. S. Danforth, Reg. of Deeds, and having charge of the Plymouth Colony Records.

June 10, 1679, Paul Sears paid Maj. William Bradford, four pounds to relinquish his claim on the above land. (Ply. Deeds, Vol. 4, Page 266.)

*1667.

The last Will and Testament of Richard Sares, of Yarmouth, late deceased, as followeth:----

In the name of God, Amen. I, Richard Sares of Yarmouth, in the Colony of New Plymouth, in New England, do this 10th day of the third month, Anno Dom. 1667, make and ordain this my last Will and Testament, in manner and form following:----

First, -- I give and surrender up my soul to God that gave it, and my body to the earth, from whence it was, in comely and decent manner to be buried, &c.; and all my lands and goods as God hath given me, I give and bequeath as followeth:

First. -- I give and bequeath, and my Will is, that Silas Sares, my younger son, shall have all my land, that is, all the upland upon the neck where his house stands in which he now dwells, thus bonded and lying between the cart-pathway as runs through the swamp into the said neck unto the land of Peter Werden, and so all along by the lands of the said Peter Werden, unto the meadows as are betwixt the said upland and the sea, and so as it is surrounded by the meadows unto the aforesaid cartpath as runs through the swamp aforesaid, after mine and my wife's decease.

To him, the said Sylas Sares, to him, and his heirs and assigns forever, (provided, and my will is, that whereas my son-in-law Zachery Padduck is possessed of, and now lives in an house that is his own proper right within the aforesaid tract of land, that he the said Zachery shall have and enjoy two acres of the aforesaid lands about his house for and during the life of Deborah, his now wife; together with all ways, easements, and emoluments, to the same appertaining, without any molestation and eviction or denial of him the said Silas, his heirs or assigns;)

And my will is, and I do hereby give unto the said Silas Sares, all that tract of meadow land, as is, and lyeth between the aforesaid neck of upland, and the river, commonly called and known by the name of Sasuett harbor, river bound: as also thus from the Great Pine tree as bounds the meadows between the meadows of the aforesaid Peter Werden, and my meadows, unto a knoll of upland called the Island, towards the said Harbeur's mouth, to the said Sylas and his heirs and assigns forever, after mine and my wife's decease.

Further, -- I do give and bequeath to my son Sylas, after mine and my wife's decease, as aforesaid, one half moiety of all my land called Robins, as is unfenced.

I mean only one half moiety, and part of the upland.

To him the said Sylas, his heirs and assigns forever.

And my Will is, and I do give and bequeath unto my elder son Paul Sares, all the rest and remain of my lands, whatsoever, and every part and parcel of them whatsoever; after mine and my wife's decease, both upland and meadow lands, which I have not in this my last Will, disposed of.

And my Will is, and I do give unto Dorothy my wife, all my lands whatsoever to be at her dispose during her natural life, and I do give unto her all my other goods and cattle whatsoever during her life, and at or before her death, to give and bequeath them amongst my children, at her pleasure, who also I do make sole ^{exec}trix of this my last Will and testament: and do intreat my brother Thacher, with his two sons as friends in trust, to see this last will performed.

Furthermore my Will is, that whereas I have bequeathed to my ^{two} sons Paul and Sylas all that tract of upland called Robins, as is unfenced, by an equal proportion between them, my Will is, I say, that my son-in-law

Zachery Paddock shall have two acres of the said upland before it be divided as aforesaid during his said wife's life: and after the decease of his said wife, my will is, and I do give unto Ichabod Paddock, the said two acres of Robins, and also the aforesaid two acres adjoining to the house of his father, Zachery Paddock during his natural life.

In witness whereof I have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand.

In the presence of
Anthony Thacher
Anthony Frey

The marks of
Richard (RS) Sares

Anthony Frey testifieth to the former part of this Will that he saw Richard Sares sign it as his last Will and Testament, this second day of March, 1676.

Before me, John Freeman, Assistant.

Be it known to all to whom these presents shall come, that I, Richard Sares of Yarmouth, in the Colony of New Plymouth, as in this my Will before mentioned, being now weak in body, but of perfect sense and memory, do by these presents ratify and confirm my Will, as it has been made on the other side, bearing date the 10th of the third month 1667.

And I do add hereto as followeth, that at my wife's decease my eldest son Paul Sares shall have and enjoy to his own proper use, the house which I now live in, and my bed and the bedding thereto belonging, and also my clothing, and the cattle that shall be left at my wife's decease, and also my warming pan, and the earthen pott with the cover that belongs to it, and the iron pot and table: and in witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand and seale, this third day of February Anno Dom. 1675.76.

In the presence of
John Thacher
Judah Thacher

The mark of (RS) Richard Sares

I, John Thacher do testify, that myself and my brother did set our hands as Witnesses to this Will, as being his last Will and Testament, and when my Uncle signed this Appendix to the Will, he delivered the Will to me, and desired me to new draw the whole Will, and to leave out of the new draft, the legacy of land that is given to Ichabod Paddock, for saith he, I have anseized it in another way, but if I die before you have done it, then it must go as it is; and trouble took me off so that I did not redraw the Will.

I having thus explained myself, do testify that this Will is the last Will and Testament of my Uncle Sares, so far as I know.

This fift of March 1676.

Mr. John Thacher attested to this Will before me,
John Freeman, Assistant.

October the eighth day in the year of our Lord, one thousand, six hundred and seventy six,

This being a true Inventory of the Estate of Richard Sares, lately deceased, according to our best information and judgement, taken by us whose names are underwritten, as followeth:

Imp. his house and land	220 00 00
Item, five cows	10 00 00
Item, 1 bull, 1 heifer of three years and vantage	3 10 00

Item, 1 heifer of two years and vantage	01 10 00
Item, 5 year olds	05 00 00
Item, 2 calves	01 00 00
Item, his bed and the furniture thereto belonging	08 07 00
Item, more, 2 pairs of sheets	02 15 00
Item, 2 sheets, and 2 pairs of drawers	01 01 00
Item, 1 table cloth, 1 pillow beare, 1 napkin, 3 towels	00 08 00
Item, britches and hat	02 03 00
Item, his coat and cloak	02 00 00
Item, 1 pair of stockings and shoes	00 05 00
Item, 1 great Bible and other books	01 03 00
Item, pewter and tin	01 03 00
Item, brass	00 06 00
Item, 1 pair of stilliyards	00 15 00
Item, iron furniture for the fire	00 12 00
Item, more on rugg	00 04 00
Item, 2 chests	00 16 00
Item, 1 beer barrell & one earthern pott	00 64 00
Item, 3 chairs	00 07 00
Item, his bees	01 00 00
Item, other householdments	00 08 00
Item, more, two waistcoats	00 12 00
Item, 1 mare and colt	00 10 00
Item, debts in cash	01 19 00
Item, more, 2 Indian trays	

264 169 06 06

Thomas Boarman

Lancher Winslow

Samuel Worden

This 15th day of November 1676.

Dorothy Sares the relict of
 Richard Sares, and Paul Sares
 his eldest son, made their appearance
 and gave oath to the truth of this
 Inventory above written
 before me, John Freeman, Assistant.

Plymouth, ss. Apl. 24, 1883. The foregoing is a true copy from
 Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. III of Wills, folios 53, 54, 55.

Attest, Wm. S. Danforth, Reg.

--:0:--

SEARS GENEALOGY

16a.

SECOND GENERATION

2. Capt. PAUL² SEARS, (Richard,) b. Marblehead, Mass., after Feb. 20, 1637-38; d. Yarmouth, ^{Mass.,} ~~Ply. Col.~~, Feb. 20, 1707-8, in his 70th yr., gr-st.; m. Yar., in 1658, Deborah Willard, dau. of George W., she bapt. Scituate, Ply. Col., by Rev. Wm. Witherell, Sept. 14, 1645; d. Yar., May 13, 1721. (Her mother was perhaps Dorothy Dunster, see further on.)

Children in Yarmouth:

5. 1. Mercy, b. July 3, 1659.

6. 2. Bethia, b. Jan. 3, 1661-62; d. Chatham, ^{Mass.} ~~Ply. Col.~~, July 5, 1724, ae. 63 yrs., gr-st.; m. May 27, 1684, John Crowell, Jr., of Nobscusset, he b. 1662; d. Oct. 11, 1728.

Children, Crowell:

1. Joseph, b. Mar. 20, 1685; m. Oct. 27, 1709, Bathsheba Hall, dau. of Elisha & Lydia H., and 2d., Sept. 4, 1723, Sarah Howes,

Children, Crowell:

1. Joseph, b. Aug. 20, 1713.

2. Joshua, b. 1725.

3. Stephen, b. Apr. 28, 1727.

2. Paul, b. Apr. 20, 1687; d. Oct. 11, 1765, in his 79th yr.; m. Oct. 21, 1714, Elizabeth Hallet; and 2d., Feb. 25, 1724, 26, Margery Hall, dau. of Joseph & Hannah (Miller) H., she ^{Da.} b. Feb. 24, 1694-95; d. May 14, 1773, in her 79th yr.; lived in Chatham.

Children, Crowell:

1. Abigail, m. ---- Collins.

2. Paul, m. Rebecca ----, who d. Dec. 30, 1746; and 2d., Reliance ----; and 3d., Mehitabel ----.

3. Johnathan, b. Feb. 25, 1715; m. July 13, 1738, Ann Nickerson.

4. Elizabeth, b. Apr. 7, 1726; m. ---- Doane.

5. David, b. Aug. 3, 1730.

3. Bethia, b. Apr. 13, 1689; d. Eastham, Jan. 2, 1752, in her 63d yr.; m. Oct. 12, 1710, Joseph Atwood.

Children, Atwood:

1. Bethia, b. 1714; d. Mar. 9, 1789, in her 79th yr.; m. May 10, 1733, Col. Willard Knowles.

2. Joseph, b. Feb. 19, 1720-21; m. Deborah Sears. ^{Da. 66.}

4. Mehitabel, b. Sept. 3, 1691; m. May 20, 1713, John Ryder.

5. John, b. July 1693; m. Oct. 23, 1718, Kezia Eldridge; and 2d., Mar. 7, 1744-45, Thankful Price; rem. to Falmouth.

Children, Crowell: by Kezia,

1. Deborah, b. Sept. 21, 1719; m. Aug. 24, 1738, John Sears, ^{Da. 49.}

2. Mehitabel, b. Aug. 14, 1721; m. Mar. 31, 1743,
Zachariah Sears, ^{no. 93.}

3. John, b. Jan. 9, 1723-24; m. Mar. 11, 1747, Mary
Howes.

4. Bethia, b. Mar. 4, 1726-27; m. 1744, Zachariah
Howes; rem. to Windham, Conn. ^{29.}

5. Kezia, b. July 13, 1729; d. July 1729.

6. Kezia, b. May 18, 1730; d. May 29, 1730.

7. Samuel, b. Mar. 21, 1732-33; d. June 28, 1733.

8. Kezia, b. May 17, 1734.

9. Samuel, b. Dec. 29, 1735; d. Mar. 7, 1735-36.

10. Anna, b. Mar. 29, 1738.

11. Mary, b. Dec. 13, 1739; m. 1759, Judah Sears, ^{no. 130.}
by Thankful,

12. Lot, b. July 31, 1746.

13. Bethia, b. Mar. 24, 1747-48.

6. Deborah, b. July 1, 1695; d. Jan. 11, 1705-6.

7. Christopher, b. July 24, 1698; d. Jan. 12, 1781; m. Sept.
23, 1724, Sarah Matthews, she b. 1702;
Children, Crowell:

1. Hannah, b. Sept. 9, 1725; m. Apr. 9, 1742,
Edmund Sears, ^{no. 44.}
2. Elizabeth, b. July 3, 1728; d. Dec. 3, 1744.
3. Sarah, b. July 14, 1729; m. Dec. 11, 1745,
Seled Saunders; rem. to Nova Scotia.
4. Mary, b. Mar. 19, 1731.
5. Temperance, b. Apr. 19, 1733; m. Jan. 3, 1760,
Isaac Howes, son of Joseph & Mary (Howes) H.
6. William, b. Mar. 25, 1734; m. Jan. 21, 1773,
Hannah Sears, ^{no. 31.}
7. Christopher, b. Apr. 7, 1737; m. Dec. 24, 1761,
Deborah Sears, ^{no. 234.}
8. Enoch, b. May 25, 1739; m. Dec. 9, 1763, Bathsheba
Paddock.
9. Bethia, b. Aug. 28, 1741.
10. John, b. Feb. 2, 1744; d. Apr. 6, 1825.

8. Elizabeth, b. Oct. 8, 1700; m. Dec. 22, 1721, Benjamin
Homer of Boston, son of John & Margery (Stephens) H., he
b. May 8, 1698; d. Feb. 24, 1776, ae. 78 yrs.
Children, Homer:

1. Bethia, b. Mar. 18, 1722; m. Boston, 1751, Theo.
Witherell; and 2d., 1758, Benjamin Cobb, ^{of N. Boston.}
2. John, b. Sept. 28, 1724; m. Sept. 28, 1749,
Abigail Osborn of Nantucket.
3. Margery, b. June 13, 1727; d. Aug. 6, 1787, ae.
60 yrs.; m. Jan. 3, 1765, Willard Sears of
Harwich, and 2d., Benjamin Higgins of Eastham.
4. William, b. July 14, 1729; was a loyalist, and rem.
to Barrington, Nova Scotia.
5. Benjamin, b. Aug. 15, 1731; rem. to Boston; m.
Oct. 23, 1759, Mary Parrott, dau. of Bryant &
Ruth (Wadsworth) P., who d. Oct. 24, 1776; (from
whom derives Albertina Homer Shelton, who m.
Frederic R. Sears of Boston, ^{no. 1494.}

6. Stephen, b. Apr. 15, 1734; m. Elizabeth Chapman, ^{of Barnstable}.
7. Thomas, b. Mar. 21, 1736; m. Nov. 21, 1765, Elizabeth Sears, dau. of Capt. Edmund & Hannah (Crowell) S., she b. Oct. 16, 1745; d. 1819; rem. to Vermont.
8. Elizabeth, b. Nov. 18, 1738; m. David Knowles, ^{of Eastham}.
9. Robert, b. Jan. 28, 1742; m. Jerusha Sears, dau. of Daniel & Mercy (Snow) S., she b. June 28, 1742; d. soon; and 2d., Hannah (Matthews) Thacher, widow of John T.
9. Mercy, b. Dec. 25, 1704; m. Sept. 4, 1723, Thomas Bray.

*7. 3. SAMUEL, b. last of June 1663-64.

8. 4. Lydia, b. Oct. 24, 1666; d. 1748; m. Eleazar Hamblen, son of James H., 2d., of Harwich, he b. Apr. 12, 1668; d. 1698; and 2d., Sept. 30, 1706, Thomas Snow, son of Mark & Jane (Prence) S.

Children, Hamblen:

1. Elisha, b. Jan. 26, 1697-98; m. Elizabeth Mayo, ^{of Eastham}, Child, Hamblen:
1. Elijah, b. Mar. 22, 1722-23.

Children, Snow:

2. Lydia, b. 1707.
3. Thomas, b. June 15, 1709.
4. Aaron, b. Feb. 15, 1710-11.
5. Ruth, b. 1713.

*9. 5. PAUL, b. June 15, 1669.

10. 6. Mary, b. Oct. 24, 1672; d. Nov. 7, 1745, as. 73 yrs., gr-st., Eastham, Mass.; m. Col. John Knowles, Jr., son of John & Apphia (Bangs) K., he b. July 10, 1673; d. Nov. 3, 1757, in his 85th yr., gr-st.; he was a man of wealth and influence.

Children, Knowles:

1. Joshua, b. 1696. ^{6 July}
2. John, b. 1698; m. (int. Mar. 25, 1721,) Mehitable Walker, prob. dau. of William & Anne (Young) W., of Eastham.
3. Seth, b. 1700.
4. Paul, b. 1702; m. Feb. 28, 1729, Phebe Paine, dau. of Thomas.
5. James, b. 1704.
6. Jesse, b. 1702.
7. Mary, b. 1709. m. ¹⁷²⁸⁻⁹ John Wing of Barnstable (See next page)
8. Willard, b. Nov. 6, 1711; d. Mar. 11, 1786, in his 75th yr.; m. May 10, 1733, Bethia Atwood, dau. of Joseph & Bethia (Crowell) A., who d. Mar. 9, 1789, in her 75th yr.; he was town clerk, 1760-64; Lt. Col. 2d Barnstable Reg., 1763; and Col. 1771.

Children, Knowles:

1. Willard, b. Oct. 26, 1737; m. 1762, Mercy Snow.
2. John, b. June 9, 1744; d. Nov. 6, 1807, (1806 gr-st.); m. May- Jan. 19, 1769, Susanna Walker, dau. of Samuel & Rebecca (Freeman) W., she b. Apr. 4, 1747; d. Oct. 30, 1837, as. 91 yrs., gr-st.

3. Mary, b. Oct. 20, 1746; d. Jan. 31, 1807; m. Sept. 12, 1765, Capt. Winslow Lewis.
4. Temperance, b. 1749; d. Apr. 8, 1782; m. Dec. 23, 1766, Rev. Jonathan Bascom, who m. 2d., Phebe (Taylor) Sears, widow of David S.; and 3d., Betsy Freeman.
5. ^{Ms. 145} Bethia, b. ^{Nov. 3, 1763,}; m. Barnabas Freeman, son of Samuel ^{Nov. 3, 1763,} & Mary (Paine) F., he b. Feb. 23, 1736-37; d. Jan. 17, 1781.
6. Seth.

11. 7. Ann, b. Mar. 27, 1675; d. Nov. 14, 1745, in her 71st. yr., gr-st., Truro, m. Jan. 28, 1703, John Merrick, son of William & Abigail (Hopkins) M., of Harwich.

Children, Merrick:

1. John, m. Frances Clark, who d. Carmel, N.Y., Aug. 22, 1785, in her 77th yr., gr-st.

Children, Merrick:

1. John, b. May 3, 1731; m. Elizabeth Brown, widow of Seth Merrick and ----- Peterman, she d. Carmel, Apr. 14, 1794, ae. 67 yrs.
2. Desire, b. Feb. 27, 1733; m. Aug. 10, 1756, Nathaniel Stone.
3. Rebecca, b. Dec. 21, 1735.
4. Phebe, b. Dec. 15, 1736.
5. David, b. Jan. 11, 1738; d. May 8, 1806, in his 69th yr., gr-st.; m. Hannah -----, who d. Feb. 24, 1807, in her 77th yr., gr-st.
6. Isaac, b. Mar. 17, 1740; d. May 12, 1812; m. Sarah Hazen, she b. 1742; d. Apr. 23, 1801, gr-st.

*12. 8. JOHN, b. 1677-78.

*13. 9. RICHARD, b. 1680-81.

*14.10. DANIEL, b. 1682-83.

Paul Sears took the oath of "Fidellity" in 1657; held a commission in the militia, and made a claim for a horse lost in the Narragansett war; Oct. 30, 1667, he was one of the grand jury, in an inquest held on the child of Nicholas Nickerson. He was one of the original proprietors of land in Harwich, between Bound and Stony brooks, known as "Wing's Purchase," as appears by deed of John Wing et als., to Paul Sears et als., dated Apr. 16, 1677, recorded at Plymouth.

The early records of Yarmouth were destroyed by fire at the burning of the town clerk's house in 1674, and from the succeeding volume many of the first pages are gone, and others mutilated and worn.

The names and dates of birth of his children have been supplied from various sources, and are believed to be correct.

I annex copies of his will and inventory;--- the will is signed with his mark, as is also the inventory of John Burge's estate, rendered by him, and recorded Barns. Rec. ii, p. 130, 1701.

He left property valued at 467 63 63, to his "loving wife Deborah," and to his sons, Samuel, Paul and John; that to his sons being charged

with a payment to "their brothers Richard and Daniel," towards their purchase of lands at Manomoy, having given to his daughters, (whose names are unfortunately omitted,) "such parts or portions as I was able or thought fitt."

In the ancient cemetery at Yarmouth, lies a stone slab, removed from its place to make room for the Sears monument, which bears the following inscription, surmounted by a cherub's head, and scroll work:

"Here lyss the
body of PAUL
SEARS, who
departed this
life February y^e
20th 1707, in y^e 70th
year of his age."

It is the oldest dated memorial in the cemetery.

His wife was doubtless laid by his side, but there is no stone to her memory.

George Willard, the father of Paul Sears wife, was the son of Richard and Joane (Morebread) W., of Horsmonden, Kent, England, where he was baptized Dec. 4, 1614; he settled at Scituate for a time, removing thence to Maryland, it is said, but perhaps to Gorgeana, now York, Maine.

There is some reason to believe that his wife was Dorothy Dunster, daughter of Henry D., of Balscott, near Bury, Lancashire, Eng., sister to Elizabeth D., who married his brother Simon Willard, and to Rev. Henry D., President of Harvard College. (see Willard Memorial, 1858, p. 339.)

Paul Sears was the first to adopt the present spelling Sears.)

"In the name of God, Amen, the Twentieth Day of February, 1707-8.

I, Paul Sears, Senr. of Yarmouth, in y^e County of Barnstable, in New England, being at this time ill and weak in body, but of Disposing mind and memory, Praised be God, Do make, constitute, ordain and Declare this my last Will and Testament, in manner and Form following:

First, and principally. I Comitt my soul to God, most humbly depending upon the gracious Death and merits of Jesus Christ my only Lord and Saviour for Salvation, and to the free pardon of all my sins. And my Body to the Earth to be buryed in such Decent Christian manner as to my Executors hereafter named shall be thought fitt.

And as for my outward Estates, as Lands, Chattels and Goods, I do order Give and Dispose in manner and form following:

First, -- I will that all those Debts and Duties that I owe in Right or Conscience To any person whatsoever shall be truly paid in convenient time, after my Decease by my Executors hereafter named, out of my moveable Estate.

Item, -- I do give and bequeath to my eldest son Samuel Sears, all that my land and meadow in the township of Harwich upon part whereof his house now stands as is comprehended within and between the boundaries now following: (that is to say), bounded on the east by Kenelm Winslow's Land at y^e known and accustomed bounds; and on the west side beginning at a Remarkable Rock, (lying about Four Rods eastward from Yarmouth bound Rock at bound brook,) and from the s^d Remarkable Rock the line runs Southerly over the Swamp and up y^e hill to a great Pine tree marked in s^d Yarmouth line: and thence up y^e same straight line Southerly to the highway: and

thence eastward as the way runs to the said Winslows Land, (the sd high-way being the bounds on y^e south side) And then beginning again att y^e sd Remarkable Rock the line runs northerly to a stone sett in y^e ground: and thence easterly to the edge of the marsh by a straight line to another stone sett in the ground northerly on a straight line to a bend of y^e main Creek at a stone sett in the Marsh, and on the north side tis bounded by the known and accustomed bounds: and of my interest in the undivided lands in sd Harwich, viz: that is to my sd son Samuel shall have sixteen acres to himself in y^e next Division (y^e proprietors make of the undivided Lands) and the one half of all the rest of my interest there.

All which sd Lands and Meadows shall be to my sd son Samusl Sears, and to his heirs and assigns forever, he yielding to his mother, my wife, one third part of y^e proffits thereof during her natural life, and also paying to his two brothers Richard and Daniel, forty and four pounds in money towards the paying their purchase at Manamoy. I do give him my Try pott and Kettle.

It. -- I do give and bequeath to my son Paul Sears and to his heirs and assigns forever, one peice of fresh meadow called the Green Meadow which lyeth on the north side of my old house and is bounded eastward at y^e Well or Spring, then westward taking all y^e Marsh or ground to y^e old cartway (which leads into y^e neck) on J^{oseph} Ssars fence: thence northeastward as the sd old cartway and fence runs to Zachariah Paddocks fence or line which is y^e bounds on y^e north side to bound brook, the sd bound brook and well of spring being the bounds on the east side, and also one quarter part of my interest of the undivided lands in sd Harwich (besides the above sd Sixteen acres given to my son Samuel,) and for the rest of my son Pauls land is in y^e neck where he now dwells, and by me confirmed by Deed of Gift formerly, and my Will is that he shall yield to his mother, my wife, one thiri of the proffits or income of all I have given him, during her natural life, and that he shall pay to his two brothers Richard and Daniel, forty and four pounds towards the paying their purchase att Manamoy.

My will further is that the Ditch which hath been the accustomed bounds in the marsh betwixt my son Paul, and my kinsman Josiah Sears shall remain forever; beginning southerly att y^e upland and running straight northerly to the Creek which did run on y^e north side of y^e island, which creek shall be the north bounds:

And my Will is, and I do give all that slip of meadow on the West side of y^e sd ditch unto the said Josiah Sears, his heirs and assigns forever.

It. -- I do give and bequeath unto my son John Sears, and to his heirs and assigns forever, all the rest of my Homestead, both housings, lands and meadows, also one quarter part of all my interest in the undivided lands in y^e sd Harwich, excepting the sixteen acres before given to my sd son Samuel-- he my sd son John allowing and yielding to his mother, my wife, the one thiri part of my Housing, and the third of the proffits of y^e lands during her natural life, and he paying to his two brothers Richard and Daniel, forty and four pounds in money towards their purchase att Manamoy.

It. -- I do give and bequeath all my movable Estate as Cattle, sheep, horses, swine and household stuff &c., unto my loving wife Deborah, (my Debts and Funerall charges being first paid.) She shall have the rest for her comfort whiles she lives: and what she leaves at her death to be equally divided amongst my daughters to whom I have to each of them given such parts or portions as I was able or thought fitt.

Lastly, -- I do nominate and appoint my sd son Samuel and my loving wife Deborah executors to this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto sett my hand and seal y^e day and year in y^e other side first written.

Signed, sealed & declared in The mark and seal of
presence of Paul (S) Sears, Sr. (Seal)

John Thacher

Zachariah Paddock

Samuel Howes

Barnstable, ss. April 14, 1883. A true copy of the record,
Attest, Freeman H. Lothrop, Register of Probate Court.

A true inventory of all and Singular y^e Goods, Chattels, Housing,
Lands and Credits of Paul Sears, yeoman, deceased, prised at Yarmouth, y^e
19th day of March, 1708: By Peter Thacher & Kenselm Winslow, as followeth:

Impr. -- his money 1 17 6 his apparell of all sorts		
<u>10 9 0</u> (7 10 0)	11 18 6	
It. -- Two feather beds, two other beds, bedstead, curtains and valance with bolsters, pillows, and all y ^e coverlids and sheets	21 13 6	
It. -- Table and chairs 1 4 0 andirons, trammels	03 08 06	
iron potts & pot hooks	03 02 06	
Tongs, & fire flue, iron kettles, skillets, frying pans		
It. -- Brass kettle, warming pan, hitchell, stillyards	02 06 00	
chests and boxes		
It. -- Spinning wheels 10s pewter platter, plates	01 17 00	
cups and potts		
It. -- Koolers, pails, trays, trenchers and spoons, table	01 02 00	
linen & towels		
It. -- his saddle, bridle, pilyon, & cloth, flax &	02 00 00	
linen yarn		
It. -- Cash, candlestick, lamp, draving knife axes,	00 17 00	
sickle & hoes		
a sifting trough, wool, five washing tubs knife	00 09 00	
scissors, Looking glass		
It. -- Salt and feathers, and iron wedge, y ^e iron belonging		
to y ^e cart, and plows and spade a staple and cap ring,		
& caps and ring	02 19 06	
It. -- 4 bushels Rye, 24 of Indian, 3 of wheat and $\frac{1}{2}$ his	05 00 00	
books		
Tobacco, 10s pitchforks, powder horn, bullets,	00 17 00	
and sword		
Grindstone, and tin ware, 2 oxen, 5 cows, 3 steers	23 05 00	
It. -- 2 yearlings, a bull and one horse, 3 swines, 25		
sheep	11 05 06	
It. -- his housing, lands, and meadows at 350	350 00 00	
more about 3 acres of English corn upon y ^e		
ground not prised		
	The total	445 07 09
now due to y ^e Estate about		21 15 06

April 8th 1708.

Samuel Sears Executor to the last Will and Testament of Paul Sears

of Yarmouth, his deceased father, before Barnabas Lothrop, Esq., Judge of Probate and granting letters of Administration, within this County of Barnstable, made oath that the above written is a true Inventory of y^e Estate of y^e sd Paul Sears so far as he knows, and that if any thing else that is material shall y^t farther come to his knowledge he will bring it to this Inventory.

Attest, Wm. Bassett, Reg.

Peter Thacher
Kenelm Winslow, Junr.

Barnstable, ss. April 14, 1883. A true copy of the record.
Attest, Freeman H. Lothrop, Register of Probate Court.

--:0:--

3. Lt. SILAS² SEARS, (Richard¹), born Marblehead, Mass., in 1637-38; (perhaps a twin,) died in Yarmouth, Jan. 13, 1697-98, aged 60 years, (according to a memorandum on the town records, now lost;) he married Anna -----, (perhaps a daughter of James Bursell, of Yarmouth, who died in 1676, leaving widow Emott, and it is said three daughters; his widow and Lt. Silas Sears were appointed Administrators of his Estate.)

She died a widow Mar. 4, 1725-26.

Children in Yarmouth:

*15. 1. SILAS, b. about 1661.

*16. 2. RICHARD, b. about 1672.

17. 3⁴ Hannah, b. Eastham, Dec. 1672; was adm. to Ch. Harwich, in 1701; m. Feb. 8, 1692-93, Thomas Snow, son of Mark & Jane (Prence) S., he b. Aug. 6, 1668; (m. 2d., Sept. 30, 1706, Lydia (Sears) Hamblen, widow of Eleazar H., and dau. of Paul Sears.)

Children, Snow:

1. Elizabeth, b. Oct. 25, 1693.

2. Mary, b. 1696.

3. Josiah, b. Jan. 27, 1699.

4. Ebenezer, b. Feb. 14, 1700-1; (the first child baptized in Harwich, Mar. 30, 1701.)

5. Hannah, b. Mar. 21, 1703.

*18. 4. JOSEPH, b. about 1675.

*19. 5. JOSIAH, b. about 1675.

20. 6. Elizabeth, m. ^{Yar} Nov. 22, 1705, John Cooke, son of Caleb & Jane C., of Plymouth, Mass.

Children, Cooke:

1. Silas, b. Ply., 1708; m. Elizabeth -----, and lived in Kingston, Mass.

Children, Cooke:

1. Sarah, b. Nov. 15, 1731.
2. Elizabeth, b. July 16, 1735.
3. Deborah, b. Nov. 12, 1737.
4. Rubee, b. May 25, 1740.

2. Paul, b. Ply., 1711; m. Joanna Holmes, dau. of Nathaniel & Joanna (Clark) H., lived in Kingston;

Children, Cooke:

1. Nathaniel, b. Mar. 28, 1736; d. Oct. 1, 1736.
2. John, b. Sept. 3, 1737.
3. Abigail, b. Dec. 1, 1739.
4. Mary, b. Dec. 5, 1741.
5. Paul, b. Mar. 22, 1743-44.
6. Sears, b. May 4, 1746.

3. Robert, b. Ply., 1714; m. Patience -----; lived in Kingston;

Children, Cooke;

1. Hannah, b. July 25, 1736; d. Sept. 3, 1736.
2. Caleb, b. Oct. 14, 1737; d. Mar. 3, 1737-38.
3. Seth, b. Feb. 14, 1738-39.
4. Silas, b. Mar. 20, 1739-40.
5. Joseph, b. Aug. 9, 1744; d. Aug. 18, 1744.
6. Ebenezer, b. Apr. 6, 1745.

4. Mercy, b. 1748-1758.

21. 7. Dorritty, b. about 1687; m. Yar., Feb. 8, 1715-16, Joseph Staples; she was adm. to 2d. Ch. Yar., June 30, 1728; and d. Feb. 28, 1753; a.e. 65 yrs., gr-st., North Dennis. (Joseph Staples, perhaps a son, was adm. to 2d. Ch. Yar., July 6, 1766.)

Lieut. Silas Sears lived in that part of Yarmouth known as the East Precinct, now East Dennis; was "propounded to take up Freedom", June 6, 1682; com. Ensign, Oct. 28, 1681; and Lieut. July 7, 1682; Juryman, 1680-82; Selectman, 1680-94; and Deputy to the General Court, Plymouth, 1685-91.

Dec. 25, 1689, "Silace Sears and others were fined 20 shillings for not appearing and attending at Court, or disorderly departing therefrom"; fines remitted later, "it being the first offense of the kind."

1694, "Lt. Silas Saars on com. to seat men, women and others in the meeting house," an onerous duty in those days.

He left no will, and letters of administration were granted to his widow, Anna Sears, May 1, 1698.

Rev. E.H.Sears states in his Sears Genealogy, that Lt. Silas Sears had a son Thomas, born Yarmouth, 1664, who removed to Newport, R.I., and died there in 1707, leaving issue.

About 1860, a gravestone was erected by Hon. David Sears in the old burying ground on Thames street, Newport, which bears the following inscription, surmounted by the arms of "Sears of Chatham", assumed about this time by Mr. Sears, and which by Heraldic Law may only be borne by his lineal descendants, and cannot of course be retroactive.

"Here lyeth the body of
 THOMAS SEARES,
 son of Lt. SYLAS SEARES,
 of Yarmouth P.C.,
 and grandson of RICHARD
 THE PILGRIM.
 Born in 1664, and Died
 August y^o 16th 1707,
 Aged 43 years.

 "Beneath this stone the empty casket lies,
 The polished jewel brightens in the skies."

 "P. Stevens & Sons."
 (Stone Cutters.)

The name of Thomas Sears is not found in town or church records of Yarmouth or Newport, nor in the probate records of Barnstable county, or of Newport, R.I., and the fact that he is not mentioned in the settlement of the estate of Lt. Silas Sears, by the Judge of Probate for Barnstable county, nine years previous to his alleged death, is good evidence that Lt. Sears had no son of that name then living, if he ever had such.

Silas Sears, Junr., did have a son Thomas, born in 1702-3, named for his maternal grandfather, Rev. Thomas Crosby.

 "May y^e 15th, 1698, by Barnabas Lothrop, Judg of Probate and granting administration in y^e county of Barnstable, a settlment of y^e Estate of Lt. Silas Sears late of Yarmouth, deceased intestate: and to be devideed as hereafter exp̄est.

The widow Anna Sears shall have when debts are paid, one third of y^e personal Estate to herself forever: to be at her dispose. And for her dower she shall have one third of y^e housing and Land that was her late husbands sd Silas Sears or y^e Improvement thereof During her Natural Life.

The Rest of y^e Estate shall be equally divided amongst y^e sd deceaseds children, only his eldest son to have a dubble part, at y^e Death of y^e widow her Dower to be a like divided as aforesaid.

There is to be added to y^e Inventory of y^e sd personal estate fifty four pounds which sum of sd deceaseds children own that they have allRedy Received of their father as portion, so that y^e widows thirds of y^e personal Estate when debts are paid comes to thirty three pounds, y^e childrens part of y^e personal and Real Estate beside y^e widows Dower with what they allRedy had is as followeth:

The eldest son Silas Sears hath as he owned, had alredy, two pounds, and must have more nine pounds.

(The word "thirty" before "two" was doubtless omitted by mistake of The Register in 1698.)

Richard Sears hath had allredy four pounds and seven shillings, and must have more, sixteen pounds and three shillings.

Hannah Sears hath (allredy had) fifteen pounds, and is to have more five pounds and ten shillings.

Joseph Sears hath had allredy three pounds and is to have more seventeen pounds and ten shillings.